

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 02380 100300 Z

13

ACTION ARA-17

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5343

UNCLAS MEXICO 2380

E . O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: TECH, MX

SUBJ: CONACYT ANNUAL REPORT SUBMITTED, HIGHLY CRITICIZED
BY GOM PRESIDENT

REF: MEXICO A-128 OF MARCH 13, 1972

1. EMBASSY HAS JUST RECEIVED COPY OF REPORT BY CONACYT DIRECTOR GENERAL TO PRESIDENT OF MEXICO AND GOVERNING BOARD COVERING FIRST TWO YEARS OF AGENCY' S WORK, WHICH PRESENTED PERSONALLY BY MENDEZ DOCURRO IN SUMMARY FORM IN LATE MARCH TO ECHEVERRIA AND OTHER TOP GOM OFFICIALS.

2. IT SIGNIFICANT THAT DG' S REPORT LAST YEAR TO SAME AUDIENCE, WHICH REQUIRED SEVERAL HOURS, WAS WARMLY APPLAUDED BY PRESIDENT AND CARRIED IN EXTENSO IN ALL NEWSPAPERS; WHEREAS, THIS YEAR' S REPORT WAS NOT SO TREATED BY PRESS WHICH HEADLINED INSTEAD ECHEVERRIA' S CRITICISM OF THE PRINCIPAL GOM S & T AGENCY.

3. PRESIDENTIAL CRITICISM CENTERED AROUND TWO POINTS:

A. THE NEW FEATURE OF AUTO- CRITICISM WHICH CONACYT HAD BUILT- IN BY INVITING COMMENTS FROM TOP UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVES, WHICH HE CLASSIFIED AS QTE CRONIES UNQUOTE EXCUSING EACH OTHER FOR NOT GETTING THE JOB DONE; AND

B. THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM, WHICH HE LAMBASTED FOR WASTE OF TIME AND MONEY BY SENDING TRAINEES TO INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS WHERE THEY RECEIVED LOW LEVEL TRAINING SUFFICIENT ONLY UPON
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PAGE 02 MEXICO 02380 100300 Z

THEIR RETURN TO OPERATE EQUIPMENT OF THOSE NATIONS BEING SOLD TO MEXICO. IN SHORT, HE SAID THAT MANY RETURNING MEXICAN TRAINEES REPORTED THAT THEY WERE PERMITTED TO ATTAIN ONLY CERTAIN LEVELS OF EXPERTISE, BEYOND WHICH DOORS WERE CLOSED TO THEM.

4. EMBASSY WILL ANALYZE 275 PAGE TEXT AND REPORT THEREON.
MCBRIDE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

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